SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5288**

	5		4				2	3
	1			2	9			
		3			8		4	
			1		2		6	
					7		5	4
	2	9				1		8
5	6							
	4		7		1			
9	7		8	3				

TRICKY **B5288**

	6		9	8				2
	4				7	8		
5				6				7
		5						3
3								
				2	8			
	3	4	7				6	
							2	
	8	1	6		5		9	

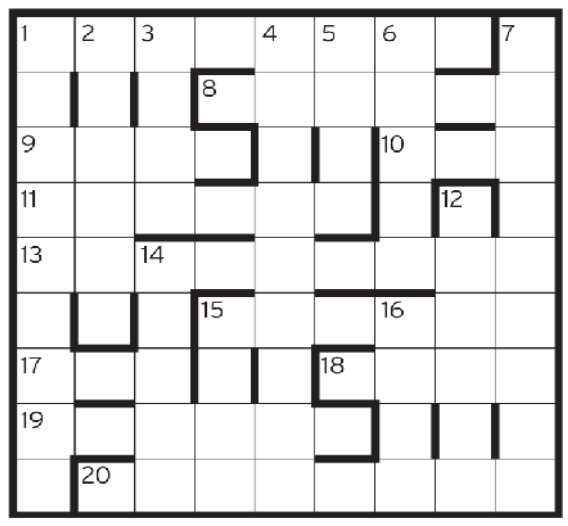
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

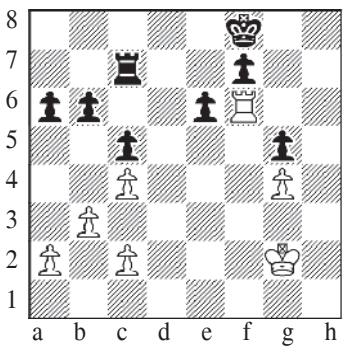
1 Celestial object (8)
8 Arsène _, former football manager (6)
9 Unit of electricity (4)
10 Star sign for July-August (3)
11 Element, symbol I (6)
13 Spend money freely (6,3)
15 Maroon (6)
17 Flying mammal (3)
18 Martial art (4)
19 To be played smoothly (6)
20 Ambitious enterprising person (2-6)



DOWN

1 Recommended (9)
2 Pries (6)
3 Informed (4)
4 Erase tint (anag.) (9)
5 On a single occasion (4)
6 Ice house (5)
7 Main entrance to a house (5,4)
12 Loose package (6)
14 Release (3,2)
15 Male deer (4)
16 Parent's sister (4)

CHESS



WHITE'S WORST KING MOVE?

HINT: IT LOSES THE ROOK.

Solution: 1. Kf3(? allows ... Kg7! (attacks and wins the trapped rook) [from Kravtsiv- Hou '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 17;

Very good 26;

Excellent 34 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

EMBRYONIC

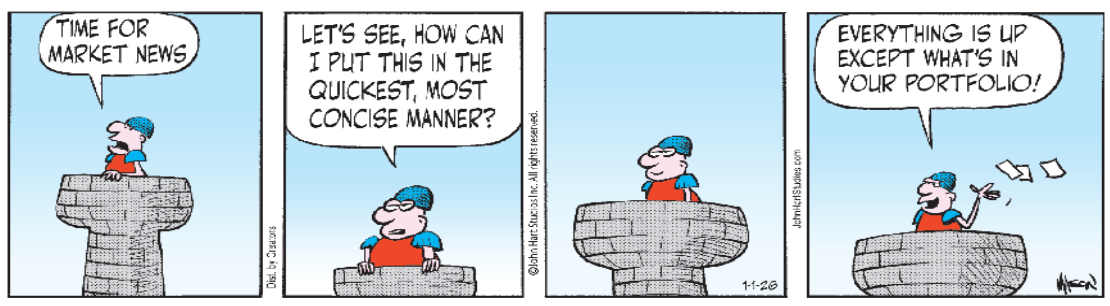
bonce bone bonier bony born borne bren brine briny bromine coin combine cone coney cony corn corny crone crony ebony EMBRYONIC icon income incomer inro iron irony merino micron mien mince mincer mine miner minor money morn nice nicer nori norm omen once oncer rein robin rone

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

NICKNAME TIME, BOBCATS! I WAS UP ALL NIGHT, AND HERE'S WHAT I CAME UP WITH!
TEDDY, YOU'RE "SCRAP" 'CAUSE YOU'RE SCRAPPY. JAMAL, YOU'RE "VELVET" BECAUSE YOU'RE SO SMOOTH. RICKY, YOU'RE "GLUE" BECAUSE YOU PLAY STICKY DEFENSE...
DAVID, YOU'RE "X-RAY" BECAUSE YOU HAVE GREAT COURT VISION. TATE, YOU'RE "TURBO" 'CAUSE YOU'RE FAST. LIAM, YOU'RE "PYLON" BECAUSE YOU JUST STAND STILL WHILE THE OTHER TEAM GOES AROUND YOU.
OH, COME ON!
I CALL 'EM AS I SEE 'EM.
Visit: bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART


TIME FOR MARKET NEWS
LET'S SEE, HOW CAN I PUT THIS IN THE QUICKEST, MOST CONCISE MANNER?
EVERYTHING IS UP EXCEPT WHAT'S IN YOUR PORTFOLIO!
1-1-26

BABY BLUES

SO, HOW'S IT GOING WITH YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?
GOOD, I THINK.
I HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED AT MY PHONE TODAY.
BUT I DID CATCH MYSELF TRYING TO SCROLL MY SANDWICH AT LUNCH.
BABY STEPS...

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:48pm	05:13pm	05:54pm	05:12pm	05:17pm	05:48pm
Sunrise	07:11am	07:09am	07:16am	07:00am	07:17am	07:24am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	7	18	Partly Cloudy	92	7	18	Partly Cloudy	7	19	Sunny
Hyderabad	9	24	Sunny	77	8	24	Sunny	9	24	Sunny
Islamabad	7	17	Partly Cloudy	79	7	19	Mostly Sunny	7	18	Mostly Sunny
Lahore	8	17	Mostly Cloudy	87	7	18	Partly Cloudy	7	17	Sunny
Multan	7	18	Mostly Sunny	88	7	19	Sunny	7	19	Sunny
Peshawar	7	18	Partly Cloudy	93	6	19	Mostly Sunny	5	19	Sunny
Quetta	0	9	Sunny	89	1	13	Sunny	1	13	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD

ECCENTRIC

(ECCENTRIC: ek-SEN-trik: Unconventional.)

Average mark 21 words
Time limit 35 minutes

Can you find 29 or more words in ECCENTRIC?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD – GNATHIC

gain	than	chat
gait	thin	chia
ghat	thing	chin
giant	ting	china
gnat	hang	chit
nigh	hating	
night	hint	
aching	inch	
acing	itch	
acting	cant	
anti	chai	
antic	chain	
tang	chant	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

2 Cerebral
9 Immune
10 Thin
11 Fern
13 Oiled
14 Disguises
16 Roger
19 Alec
20 Topi
21 Age-old
22 Stiletto.

DOWN

1 Withdraws
3 Emits
4 Runs
5 Entourage
6 Reel
7 Agreed
8 Landslide
12 Violet
15 Shoot
17 Geri
18 Stet.

METRO EVENTS

EXHIBITION

Beyond DNA 3, an exhibition of works by multiple artists, is underway at Sanat Initiative. The show will continue till Jan 8.

SESSIONS

A session on 'Real-World Challenges in Software Project Management' is organised at Room #205, EDC Campus, Iqra University at 10am.

A session on 'The Women in Jinnah's Life: Lives That Left a Mark' is organised at Main Auditorium, EDC Camus, Iqra University at noon.

DISCUSSION

A discussion on '*Ikesveen Sadi ke Pachees Saal: Aalmi Siyasi Tarikh wa Manzar Nama*' is organised by the Writers & Readers Caf , at PMA House, Garden Road, near IBA City Campus, at 5:30pm.

LECTURE

A lection by renowned artist Bushra Ansari is held at Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Auditorium, Sindh Madressatul Islam University, at 11am.

ORIENTATION DAY

Karachi University is organising an orientation ceremony at the Administration Building at 8:30am.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** Even though you might be seized with New Year's resolutions, relax and take it easy today. This year starts off in a casual, easygoing way. Wait a few days before putting plans in action. Be clear when communicating to bosses and parents to avoid misunderstandings. Tonight: Learn.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Don't rush into anything today. Kick back and relax. Be careful about embracing some kind of ideology as if it were gospel, because things are confusing today, and it's easy to push things out of perspective. This is a couch potato day to read or watch TV. Tonight: Tidy up.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** The Moon is in your sign, which will attract favors to you today. (A nice way to begin your new year.) Take it easy, because it's a dreamy day. This means it's a poor day for important financial decisions, especially about inheritances, wills or shared property. Relax. Tonight: You're strong.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** Keep a low profile today. You might have some resolutions, but today is not the day to act. This year starts off slow, which means it's the perfect time to relax at home if you can. Conversations with partners, spouses and close friends might be confusing. Be aware of this. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** Take it easy today if this is possible. Don't feel that you have to get busy because it's the first day of the year. This is a great day to daydream, watch a movie or snuggle up with your main squeeze. This year starts off gently, in slow motion. Tonight: Friendships.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** Although you might want to make New Year's resolutions, don't guilt yourself into productivity. This year begins gently, and as much as possible, you want to take it easy today and enjoy yourself. Caution about pie-in-the-sky romance. Tonight: Show respect.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Relax today. No need to jump up and begin this day with determined fervor. Au contraire! This is the day to take it easy, because there's a dreamy quality in the air. In fact, family conversations might be misinterpreted or confused. Baby steps. Tonight: Travel dreams.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** You might feel full of firm resolve with four planets in your House of Communications; nevertheless, take it easy today. This is the day to relax, because the entire world is having a dreamy moment. Communications are hazy. Double-check everything. Tonight: Check banking details.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** Be careful with financial decisions today because confusing vibes are in the air. You might tend to overidealize something. Postpone ideas about cash flow and spending for a few days so that you know what you're doing. Kick back and relax today. Tonight: Genuinely listen.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** Today Mercury moves into your sign to join the Sun, Venus and Mars, which means four planets are now in your sign! (Oh yes, it's all about you, dear CAPRICORN.) Nevertheless, take it easy, because this year begins on a relaxing note. You can start your engines later in the week. Tonight: Home crafts.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** This is the perfect day to sleep in, have a second cup of coffee and relax. You don't have to jump into action just because it's the first day of the year. In fact, you might want to hide and enjoy your privacy. Nevertheless, you will feel sociable and up for some fun diversions. Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** This is a friendly day; however, it's also a relaxing day. Enjoy schmoozing with friends and groups. Or you might choose to relax at home. Today Mercury is at odds with your ruler Neptune, casting a dreamy element of confusion and gentle vibes over the world. Tonight: Relax.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Two wrongs make a right

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ A 9 8 5
♦ 10 8 2
♣ A K Q J 3

WEST
♠ 2
♥ Q 7 4
♦ K 7 6 5 4
♣ 9 7 4 2

EAST
♠ J 9
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ A Q 9 3
♣ 10 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 8 7 6 5 4
♥ K 10
♦ J
♣ 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead -- ?

The Blackwood convention, correctly used, is extremely valuable in bidding or avoiding slams. It is especially important in hands where the number of aces is the key to how many tricks can be made.

Assume you're South in this deal, which occurred in a tournament, and partner opens one club. The question of whether there is a slam depends almost entirely on how many aces partner has.

Without Blackwood -- or a similar convention -- you'd be totally in the dark as to how high to go. North might have an 18-point hand containing one ace, or a 13-point hand containing three aces. In the latter case, you'd make a grand slam; in the former case, your limit would be 11 tricks.

It therefore makes perfect sense to find out exactly where you stand by using Blackwood directly over one club. In the actual case, partner responds five hearts, indicating two aces, so you quickly put an end to the proceedings by bidding six spades, knowing that the opponents hold an ace.

That's how the auction went at most tables where six spades was reached. But at one table where the bidding began this way, North decided to try for a top score by bidding six notrump over six spades.

East led the ace of diamonds, continued with the three after West signaled with the seven, and North went down three, losing 300 points.

It was only after the play ended that North-South realized East had led out of turn. South had bid notrump first, so West should have made the opening lead.

If South had realized that East's diamond lead was out of turn, he could then, as declarer, have prohibited West from leading a diamond. In that case, South would have made all 13 tricks, and North would have had his top score.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5287

1	3	9	6	4	7	5	2	8
5	2	7	8	9	1	3	4	6
4	6	8	2	5	3	7	1	9
3	5	2	1	7	9	8	6	4
8	7	1	4	6	5	2	9	3
6	9	4	3	8	2	1	7	5
9	4	3	7	2	8	6	5	1
2	8	6	5	1	4	9	3	7
7	1	5	9	3	6	4	8	2

Tricky — B5287

5	4	3	6	8	9	1	7	2
8	9	1	7	3	2	6	5	4
6	2	7	1	5	4	9	3	8
2	7	8	3	9	6	5	4	1
4	3	6	2	1	5	8	9	7
9	1	5	4	7	8	3	2	6
7	5	9	8	2	1	4	6	3
3	8	4	5	6	7	2	1	9
1	6	2	9	4	3	7	8	5